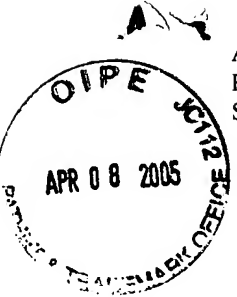


TFW

Apple. No.: 10/629,399
Reply to Office Action of: 03-11-05
SP03-098



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/629,399
Applicant : Roger A. Allaire, et al.
Filed : July 29, 2003
Title : PRESSURE FEED GRINDING OF AMLCD SUBSTRATE EDGES

TC/A.U. : 3723
Examiner : Hadi Shakeri

Docket No. : SP03-098

Mail Stop: Amendments
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

<p>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)</p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop: Amendments, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on: <u>April 6, 2005</u></p> <p><u>Doris M. Bourassa</u> Doris M. Bourassa</p>
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RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In the Office Action dated March 11, 2005, the Examiner issued a Restriction Requirement identifying the following groups of claims as being drawn to inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

- Group I. Claims 1-13, drawn to grinding apparatus utilizing rotary cylindrical tool, classified in class 451, subclass 178.
- Group II. Claims 14-22, drawn to method of edge grinding, classified in class 451, subclass 44.

Applicants hereby elects claims 1-14 with traverse, the claims of Group 1.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's Restriction Requirement on the grounds that the proposed inventions are inextricably intertwined, and prosecution of the proposed groups of claims together would be most effective for the Office. In order to

conduct a comprehensive search regarding any one of the groups, including the group provisionally elected above, it would be inherently necessary to review the same pertinent fields and classes of prior art relating to the other groups. Moreover, the important questions of patentability and claim interpretation are likely to be based on substantially similar issues and evaluations for each group of claims, and would require consideration of the same prior art, and combined prosecution is therefore less likely to result in inconsistent or conflicting file histories.

Applicants contend that the method claims recite elements found in the apparatus claims, such as "support member" and "grinding wheel". The latter elements are, for instance, recited in apparatus claims 3 and 5 and similarly in method claim 14.

As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the Restriction Requirement in the next subsequent Office Action, and continue prosecution of Groups 1-22.

Applicants believe that no extension of time is necessary to make this Response timely. Should Applicants be in error, Applicants respectfully request the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Response timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or concerns to Joanne N. Pappas at (978) 635-2289.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 4-5-05